

COUNTRY Eastern GermanyREPORT NO. 0012-2TOPIC Military Information from the Tangerhuetten-Bittkau Training Area

25X1

DATE PREPARED 19 August 1952PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

RETURN TO CIA
LIBRARY

25X1

25X1

1. On 10 and 11 July 1952, a command post exercise was held in the area of Grieben (M 53/Y 83). The officers and personnel involved left the area toward Tangerhuetten during the night of 11 July.

25X1

2. At 3 p.m. on 26 July, 1 officer and about 30 soldiers wearing black epaulets were seen near Polte on the Elbe River. Twenty steel pontoons lay on the shore. A heavy pile driver mounted on four pontoons moored in the river was being dismantled. The place was vacant when source returned on the following morning.

25X1

3. On 14 July, the area of Jerichow, Klitynick, Ferchland, Elbedeich as far as Parey lock, Neuderben, Parey and Gussen was unoccupied. Nor was there any training activity on the opposite bank of the Elbe River. Between 10 and 15 individual soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets were seen in Jerichow. Between 25 and 30 pontoons lying in two groups each guarded by a sentry, were seen on the Elbe River bank about 300 meters southeast of Polte on 15 July. The pontoons were all the same type, each about 5 meters long, about 2.30 meters wide and about 1.20 meters high, with a raking stem and a square stern. the engineers practiced chiefly in the area of the river bend between Polte and Sandfurth. Engineer practices were continuously held there in the summer of 1951. Temporary bridges were repeatedly built and disassembled there, but no bridge has been built this year.

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 2 -

Engineers had occasionally practiced with pontoons stored there. They built ferries. These engineers were quartered in Bittkau forest. Motor vehicles were also parked there. [redacted] infantry positions with a front of about 300 meters were along the steep bank of the Elbe River northeast of Polte. Four 10-man groups wearing red-bordered black epaulets marched from the forest in Bittkau toward these positions. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

* [redacted] Comment. This information confirms information [redacted] observed a command post exercise in the same area at the same time which, [redacted] involved units of the Third Gds Mecz Army and units of the 7th Gds Tank Div. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

** [redacted] Comment. The information indicates that the engineer practices during the period from 14 to 26 July were conducted only at the engineer training site in Bittkau which, [redacted] appears occupied as previously. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

The large number of new motor vehicle [redacted] belonging to the Third Shock Army tends to indicate that engineer units of this army are still at the training grounds. The 348th Engr Bn of the 18th Mecz Div, the unidentified Gds engineer battalion of the 19th Gds Mecz Div and, probably, the 107th Gds Engr Bn of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div [redacted]

25X1

SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY